

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-10 ACDA-05 OMB-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSO-00 /086 W

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P R 231035Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5416

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 1338

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LT, AO, XA, OAU

SUBJECT: GOL FOREIGN MINISTER'S ATTITUDE ON ANGOLA

REF: A. STATE 301325; B. MASERU 1337 (NOTAL); C. MASERU 1213 (NOTAL)

1. DURING MEETING ON DIFFERENT SUBJECT (REF B) BETWEEN CHARGE AND GOL FOREIGN MINISTER MOLAPO, DEC 22, LATTER SUDDENLY PUT ON SERIOUS FACE AND RAISED MATTER OF ANGOLA. HE SAID HE WAS VERY DISTURBED OVER U.S. "ABANDONMENT" OF FNLA. (HE WAS REFERRING TO SENATE VOTE TO CUT OFF FUNDS FOR USE IN ANGOLA.) HE SAID ANTI-COMMUNIST PARTIES IN ANGOLA WERE BOUND TO FEEL DIS-HEARTENED AND BETRAYED IF THEIR WESTERN FRIENDS DID NOT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE. HE SAID SOUTH AFRICA HAD MADE SERIOUS MISTAKE BY INTRODUCING COMBAT TROOPS INTO ANGOLA INSTEAD OF CONFINING ITSELF TO PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ONLY, AS THIS HAD EFFECT OF UNIFYING AFRICAN SUPPORT OF MPLA. NEVERTHELESS, HE THOUGHT IT IMPERATIVE THAT U.S. AND ITS FRIENDS DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO KEEP FNLA FROM GOING UNDER. MOLAPO DID NOT REFER TO

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UNITA, WHICH HE APPARENTLY DOES NOT DISTINGUISH FROM FNLA.

CHARGE REPLIED BY DESCRIBING DEC 19 STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER, EMPHASIZING U.S. POSITION THAT ALL OUTSIDE FORCES SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM ANGOLA, OUR HOPE THAT OAU WOULD HELP TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, AND OUR VIEW THAT MPLA SHOULD NOT BE RECOGNIZED AS GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA. MOLAPO SAID U.S. SHOULD DO MORE.

2. MOLAPO HIMSELF IS A ROCK-HARD ANTI-COMMUNIST AND HIS VIEWS MAY NOT BE FULLY REPRESENTATIVE OF GOL, WHOSE ONLY OFFICIAL PUBLIC STATEMENT ON ANGOLAN SITUATION REMAINS AS REPORTED REF C. HOWEVER, MOLAPO PROBABLY HAS CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT IN CABINET FOR HIS VIEWS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE RECENTLY OVERHEARD NEW MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, ALBERT MOHALE, HOLDING FORTH STRONGLY AGAINST MPLA AND RUSSIAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA. ONLY MINISTER WE KNOW TO FAVOR MPLA IS FORMER FONMIN KOTSOKOANE, WHO IS NOW MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

3. WITH REGARD TO REF A, EMBASSY WOULD PUT LESOTHO IN CATEGORY OF FAVORING FNLA/UNITA. IT MAY NOT TAKE AN OUTSPOKEN POSITION IN FAVOR OF FNLA/UNITA AT OAU SUMMIT, BUT WE WOULD EXPECT MOLAP TO BE ACTIVE BEHIND THE SCENES.
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